

To: Economic Development Budget Sub-Committee
From: Public Employment Relations Board
Date: Feb. 17, 2009
Re: Budget Sub Questions

1.) How many new FTE positions have you added since 2007?

Response

PERB has added NO new FTE positions since 2007.

2.) How will you implement the across the board cut?

Response

PERB had a veteran Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) retire in early January 2009. In order to meet the across the board cuts this very important position can not be filled. Our hope is that we may be able to fill the position in FY 2010, pending action taken by the legislature and Governor.

3.) Will you provide us with the list of suggested cuts you provided the Governor in November/ December of 2008?

Response

See PERB's response to question number 2.

4.) If you were forced to cut your budget by 10 percent, what suggestions would you have to reduce the budget and/or reduce the responsibilities of your department?

Response

Over 90% of PERB's budget is in personnel costs because our agency is a service provider to the labor community and government employers pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Iowa Code. We cannot reduce the responsibilities that are mandated under Chapter 20. Besides holding open the ALJ position that resulted from a staff retirement, PERB has implemented every cost saving measure that we can identify. This includes such things as limiting the use of mediators/ facilitators in assisting constituents from resolving various disputes and/or workplace issues. Other measures that have been taken are curbing purchases of office supplies, and banning any out of state travel.

5.) What assets does your department have that can be leased or sold? What services do you provide that could be privatized or outsourced?

Response

The only physical assets PERB has are the office furniture and equipment that is used everyday to perform our duties.

PERB outsourced services years ago by recruiting, training and contracting independently with Ad Hoc mediators to help provide the mandated mediation services to public sector parties. This has enabled PERB to function efficiently as a small state agency. PERB once had as many as 13 FTE's.